# B O C A G I A N A

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## FIRST RECORD OF A DRYINID WASP, ACRODONTOCHELYS BOUCEKI CURRADO (INSECTA, HYMENOPTERA) IN MADEIRA.


By M. W. R. de V. Graham *

(Formerly Curator, Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford)



**ABSTRACT.** A European parasitic wasp of the family Dryinidae, **Acrodontochelys bouceki** Currado, is recorded as an addition to the Madeiran insect fauna. Its biology was previously unknown, but observations in Madeira show that it attacks a Hemipteron of the genus **Austroagallia** (Cicadellidae) and possibly other members of that family.

**SUMARIO.** Assinala-se como espécie nova para a fauna dos insectos da Madeira uma vespa parasítica europeia da família Dryinidae, **Acrodontochelys bouceki** Currado. Desconhecia-se a sua biologia, mas observações feitas na ilha mostram que ataca um Hemíptero do género **Austroagallia** (Cicadellidae) e, possivelmente, outros membros dessa família.


In an earlier paper (Graham, 1981 : 3) I referred to «vast numbers of an unidentified species of Dryinidae» observed by us in Madeira during May 1950 at Pico das Arrudas, São Martinho.

Recently I happened to notice a paper by I. Currado (1976) describing the genus *Acrodontochelys* and its type-species *bouceki*, with beautiful figures which immediately brought to mind the Madeiran Dryinid. As I had material which I presumed to represent both sexes of the latter, I compared the specimens with Currado's description and figures and concluded that they were *A. bouceki*. Later I showed a female specimen to Dr. Boucek, who confirmed its identity. This appears to be the first record of a Dryinid from Madeira.

*A. bouceki* appears to be local on the island, though abundant where it occurs. In addition to the material from São Martinho I now find that I took some specimens from near Caniçal on the São Lourenço promontory. The habitat in both places is similar: a dry, sunny, south-


* 5 Salisbury Crescent, Oxford OX2 7TJ, United Kingdom

facing slope between 200 and 300 metres above sea-level, dominated by the grass *Hyparrhenia hirta* (L.) Stapf, with a number of flowering plants. The species was particularly abundant at São Martinho and I regret not having taken more specimens, as both localities are now being adversely affected by quarrying. Females outnumbered males in the proportion of about 10 to 1. Currado remarked in a footnote (1976 : 14) that the males attributed by him to *bouceki* were very probably conspecific with the females at his disposal, a remark prompted by the fact that the sexes are often very difficult to associate in Dryinidae because of extreme sexual dimorphism. His conclusion is supported by the Madeiran material, as in the localities mentioned *bouceki* was the only Dryinid present (in fact I have found other species of Dryinidae only rarely on the island, although Bethylidae are frequent). The species is probably confined to xerothermic habitats at a low elevation since I have not come across it elsewhere. Its host or hosts would be likely to be Hemiptera Homoptera of the family Cicadellidae, several species of which were present on the São Martinho site. One species, probably a *Mocuellus*, was abundant but no parasitised individuals were discovered; perhaps it is too small to be a suitable host. Others included species of *Balclutha* and *Thamnotettix* (none parasitised). A species of *Austroagallia* was moderately common and two adults carrying black Dryinid sacs were found, also some similarly parasitised nymphs the generic placing of which is uncertain (one nymph bore two sacs). These were just casual finds as parasitised specimens were not specially looked for at the time.

The original material of *bouceki* was taken in Spain by Dr. Boucek. He tells me that he has since found the species in Greece. Its distribution is therefore presumably Mediterranean.

## REFERENCES

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## NOTES ON TWO MADEIRA PLANTS

By N. C. H. Krauss [1]

The composite plant «Abundância» (*Eupatorium adenophorum* Spreng.) has been known in Madeira for many years. On July 24, 1962 I collected a second species of *Eupatorium*, *E. riparium* Schultz-Bip., confirmed by the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England. This was growing in association with *E. adenophorum* in a damp area along a path near Monte. Both these species of *Eupatorium* are native to Mexico. I have seen *E. riparium* growing along a small stream in a ravine at the Desierto de los Leones, Distrito Federal, in the hills above Mexico City. Both species are pests in grazing land in Hawaii.

On November 7, 1960 I collected specimens of *Ulex minor* Roth (determined by Royal Botanic Garden, Kew) in the grassy hills above Ribeiro Frio. Since then I have seen it also at Encumeada and Santo da Serra. *Ulex europaeus* L. has been known in Madeira for a long time, but I have not seen any records of *U. minor*.

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1) Entomologist, Hawaii State Department of Agriculture, Honolulu 14, Hawaii, U. S. A.